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Pages:

(Including this cover page)

Comments: RE Patent Application Serial No.: 09/815,978

Dear Patrick;

As per our conversation attached is a **UNOFFICIAL OFFICE ACTION RESPONSE, AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS** sheets for your review.

Please note that:

1. claim 56 is now dependent from claim 71;
2. claim 71 now provides $R = -OOC-(C_6H_5)-CH_2-$;
3. claim 74 is directed to a conjugate wherein the biological molecule is bound to the compound of claim 71 by interaction of at least one free amine

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on the biological molecule with the succinimidyl group of the compound of claim 71;

4. new claim 79 is directed to modifying a surface with the compound of claim 71 then binding a biological molecule comprising at least one carboxyl moiety to the surface forming a hydrazone bond.
5. Claim 81 now contains the term "comprises" as requested; and
6. Claim 82 now contains the term "comprises" as requested.

Please contact me once you have had the opportunity to review the response at (858) 457-2014.

Sincerely,



David B. Waller

Patent Agent No.: 43,978